In God's Name! How can you possibly be considering allowing the power companies to send broadband data over unshielded power lines!?
Those lines represent the worlds largest antenna array!
The frequencies and power levels proposed would wipe out most amateur radio
on multiple bands. BPL would be an absolute disaster to shortwave communications of all kinds, particularly to what we call QRP.
QRP is our shorthand for reduced power portable communications which are

most useful in the event of those power lines going down. But if we can use them when the power is there, they won't get developed so we'll never have
them if the power goes out. There is a reason that balanced line twin lead and
coax were developed is that you cannot send RF source signals on a single wire
without getting antenna radiation! This is simple physics! Many people are not
bothering to comment because they can't believe the FCC could actually be so foolish as to allow the power companies to get away with this! The power lines are already one of the biggest sources of interfering noise at every dirty
insulator and bad connection; putting RF signals through the lines would turn the worlds greatest communications service into first class scrap electronics!

This BPL proposal had better be a giant joke!

See below for examples of direct observations
Relayed to W3RV by N2EY:
I had the opportunity to observe BPL first hand this week. It's scary. I
was using my mobile ICOM706 - I didn't have my K2 with me, but I believe if
I lived in this test area under actual loads I'd be off the air on HF with
my K2 and antennas. (it apparently only has few Utility Co. employees in
the test area using it)
Here are my observations:

Steve N1NB

Observations in the Briarcliff Manor N.Y. BPL Test Area 13 August 2003. One
of the test areas for BPL is in Briarcliff Manor N.Y.. As best we
understand it the test area is quite small consisting of about a 1 mile
stretch of Pleasantville Road and 3 side street segments extending 0.5-0.7
miles off of Pleasantville Road
I made a series of tests between 9:30 and 11:30 AM EDT today - 13 August
2003. I was using my mobile HF rig - a Icom 706MkIIG transceiver and a High Sierra HS-1800DX antenna.
First I drove along the main section and 2 of the

three side segments (I
was unaware of the third side segment at the time)
listening on 20M (14.040
MHz). Throughout the test area and extending a least
a short distance
beyond very noticeable bursts of noise we heard. I
then drove over the main
segment again listening on 15M (21.350 MHz) and
heard a very loud continuos
noise signal.
I then stopped a three locations and made more
detailed observations. At
the first location near the center of the main
segment:
I listened to 12 frequencies on 20M (14.003-14.350
MHz) and heard bursts of
noise the measured S7 to S9 on my S meter. Similarly
I listened on another
12 frequencies on 10M (28.056 - 28.983 MHz) and
heard similar signals that
were even stronger, S8 to S9+20dB! It should be
noted that you could hear
these bursts across the entire band not just at the frequencies where
I stopped to capture the S Meter readings!
I understand that these bursts represent burst of
activity on the BPL
network and I presume the frequency of their
occurrence would increase
significantly if in a larger more heavily used
environment.
I listened to 9 frequencies on 15M (21.085 - 21.438
MHz) and it was much
worse a steady S9 to S9+20dB signal. This noise was
clearly heard across
the entire Band. 15M is unusable in this
environment. At this point I was
beginning to think is this my radio?? So I drove
about 5 miles away and
listened across all three bands. Silence - no noise/interference heard
across all 3 bands! I then returned and stopped at three other locations
in the test area. The observations at each of these were essentially
identical to the first measurements on 20M and 15M. On 10M two locations
were also the same but at third is also had a steady S8-S9 signal. These
steady signals on 15M and 10m (at one locations) sounded like solid
noise with some slight clicking/wavering but not anything that would
cause the S Meter to deviate from the intolerably loud constant
interference level. At one location on 20M I tuned into two phone and
one CW QSOs. I could copy them 100% between bursts, but the interference
bursts totally wiped out each of them - even the CW one. As soon as I
departed the area all bands were observed to be quiet and free of
interference. As this setup in neither my most sensitive receiver nor
the most efficient antenna, I can only imagine what this would sound
like at my home if BPL was active in my immediate neighborhood using my
standard, more sensitive equipment. It would appear that HF would be
unusable.